



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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San Diego Public Library to Participate in National Pilot Program Focusing on Jazz Music *Six-Part Initiative will be Held at the Central Library in Spring 2007*

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will be one of 43 libraries nationwide to serve as a pilot site for a documentary film viewing and discussion series, “Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form.” This initiative features six carefully curated viewing and discussion programs accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs.

“We are thrilled to be one of the first libraries in the country to participate in this pilot program,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “Jazz has a rich history and is an important part of American culture. The San Diego Public Library has a long been a leading source of information about history and music.”

“Looking At: Jazz” explores the history of jazz, an art form that evolved in the 20th century to occupy a unique place in American cultural history. Themes for the six programs in the series are: “New Orleans: The Birthplace of Jazz”; “The Jazz Age and the 1920s”; “The Women of Jazz”; “The Jazz Swing Era”; “Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More”; and “Latin Jazz.” The six events will be held at the Central Library from March through May 2007.

The San Diego Public Library was chosen for the program by National Video Resources, in partnership with the American Library Association. The National Endowment for the Humanities provides support for “Looking At: Jazz.” The library’s partnering institutions in this venture are San Diego State University’s School of Music and Dance, which has the largest jazz studies program in California, and KSDS, San Diego’s premier jazz radio station, affiliated with San Diego City College. More information about the program is available at www.nvr.org/lookingatjazz.

A total of 43 nonprofit institutions were selected to participate. Each one will receive materials and resources (films, written materials, publicity materials, access to an electronic discussion list and project Web site), inclusion in a training workshop, and a cash grant of \$1,000.

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Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form Preliminary Calendar of Events

March through May 2007

The San Diego Public Library will present "Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form," a six-part initiative featuring carefully curated viewing and discussion programs. These events will be accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs. The events will be held in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. For more information, contact the Art, Music & Recreation section of the Central Library at 619-236-5810.

• **March 18 at 2 p.m.: New Orleans: The Birthplace of Jazz**

Jazz emerged in the late 1800s in the cosmopolitan port city of New Orleans. A former colony of both France and Spain, the coastal city was home to an astounding variety of cultures and people, making it fertile ground for the birth of an art form. Despite the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the legacy of New Orleans and jazz survives and continues to thrive. Leading the discussion will be Jerry Fenwick, a professor of music at San Diego City College.

• **April 1 at 2 p.m.: The Jazz Age and the 1920s**

In the first two decades of the 20th century, the United States, African-Americans took part in the Great Migration to the North. The story of jazz embraces America's cities. Early jazz pioneers such as trumpeter and vocalist Louis Armstrong, ultimately transformed early jazz, turning it into a fine art. Leading the discussion will be Richard Thompson, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **April 22 at 2 p.m.: The Jazz Swing Era**

The height of popularity for jazz came with the Swing Era, which lasted through the Depression and World War II. In the 1930s, Americans, facing the greatest economic calamity in their history, drew on swing as a respite from worry. Swing eventually became the popular music of wartime America with dance bands led by Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and others. Leading the discussion will be Rick Helzer, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **April 29 at 2 p.m.: The Women of Jazz**

Women's collaboration and interaction with their male counterparts changed the music for the better. Women jazz and blues singers such as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald and instrumentalists like trumpet player Clora Bryant loved the music and its people too much not to be heard. They employed intelligence, wit and intense expressivity and their presence contributed new approaches to sound, melody, rhythm, text and performance style. Leading the discussion will be Rick Helzer, a music professor at San Diego State University.

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**Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form
Calendar of Events**

• **May 6 at 2 p.m.: Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More**

Mid-century jazz is marked by rapid innovations. One of the most innovative periods in jazz history intersected with profound social and cultural shifts related to diverse groups in American society staking a claim for greater social and political opportunity in the United States in the 1960s. Leading the discussion will be Richard Thompson, a music professor at San Diego State University.

• **May 20 at 2 p.m.: Latin Jazz**

Another experimental trajectory for jazz began in 1939 when a young Dizzy Gillespie was influenced by friend and band mate Mario Bauza, who introduced him to Afro-Cuban rhythms. The two were joined by others to create Latin jazz, a highly danceable blend of Latin rhythms, jazz harmony and improvisation. Leading the discussion will be Jerry Fenwick, a professor of music at San Diego City College.

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